

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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A magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the
old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers

Vol. 51 No. 2

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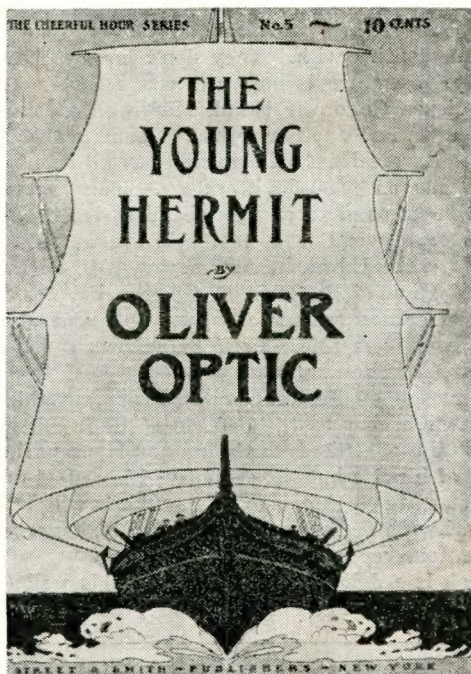
Whole No. 554

TOM SWIFT & COMPANY; "BOYS' BOOKS"

By Stratmeyer and Others

By John T. Dizer, Jr.

A Review by Peter C. Walther



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 226

CHEERFUL HOUR SERIES

Publisher: Street & Smith, 79-89 Seventh Ave., New York, N. Y. Issues: 6.
Dates: Jan. 11, 1917 to March 23, 1917. Schedule: Semi-monthly. Sizes:
7x5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Pages: 250 to 280. Price: 10c. Contents: Oliver Optic stories which
had first appeared in New Medal Library and later reprinted in Alger Series.
The six titles were: 1. Royal Tar's Pluck. 2. The Prisoners of the Cave. 3. Louis
Chiswick's Mission. 4. The Professor's Son. 5. The Young Hermit and 6. The
Cruise of the "Dandy."

TOM SWIFT & COMPANY; "BOYS' BOOKS"

By Stratmeyer and Others

By John T. Dizer, Jr.

A Review by Peter C. Walther

McFarland & Company, Jefferson, N. C., Publisher

Dr. John Dizer has done more than write a book: he has presented a viewpoint. Many of the collectors over the years who have read Stratmeyer know who the man was and basically what he wrote. Dr. Dizer however has opened new doors, broadened our horizons, and has for the first time painted a composite picture of the writer, his wide-ranging literary forays, and the Syndicate which he successfully founded. If Edward Stratmeyer were alive today we imagine he would zero in on the crux of the entire book, the viewpoint mentioned earlier, to be found on p. 8: "The point here is, and it is important, that some librarians and English teachers tend to emphasize, or 'push,' so-called 'good' literature for children; the carefully written, well printed, beautifully illustrated, and expensive books that picture life as they want it presented to the children. But children, and even adults, don't like being spoon-fed beautiful literature. They want a story. They want action. They want characters they can identify with. They don't have to have a plausible story to enjoy it. Escape literature is none the worse for its escapism, regardless of whether it is science fiction or Frank Merriwell at Yale. And when children like a story they want another with the same characters in other situations, and so the series are born. Obviously, not all series books can be characterized as the acme of juvenile literature. Many, however, are carefully plotted and well written, and to categorize all series books as trash shows a rigid intolerance more typical of a biblebelt evangelist than an enlightened educator." Whether it be Edward Stratmeyer, "Oliver Optic," Horatio Alger, "Burt L. Standish," Howard R. Garis et al: once Dr. Dizer has developed his stratagem he has offered a master case: for the general study and research into the popular "boys'" or series book as well as a scholarly "How To" in how it should be done. The only item which the book seriously lacks is more biographical information on Stratmeyer himself; but this is due not to Dr. Dizer's lack of foresight but to the deference shown Stratmeyer's daughter, Harriet S. Adams, who according to the author is preparing not only the authoritative history of his life but the definitive history of the Stratmeyer Syndicate as well. Let us hope that soon Mrs. Adams will begin (if she has not already) the task of writing her father's biography, eagerly awaited I am sure by the host of Stratmeyer collectors.

Dr. Dizer's book is a delight: it looks well, holds well (a big plus in these days of flimsy paperbacks), and serves not only as enjoyable reading but also

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Published six times per year at 821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Edward T. LeBlanc, editor, 87 School Street, Fall River, Mass. 02720. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas. 66044. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. 01560. Subscription: \$10 per year. Ad rates—15c per word, \$3.00 per column inch; \$6.00 per quarter page; \$8.00 per half page and \$15.00 per full page.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

as a valuable resource tool. We regret the paucity of illustrations as well as the absence of the author's commanding presence astride his Triumph, which was to adorn, rumor heard it, the back of the proposed dust jacket. In these days of rising costs, we can understand these stringent measures but miss it all none the less. It is a pleasure to have this long-awaited book finally off the presses. Prof. Cox has contributed a timely Introduction which not only re-inforces what juvenile book collectors have known for years (that popular literature has received undue chasticement and neglect from "serious" scholars) but whets the appetite of the reader to begin at once the reading of the volume, much as Stratemeyer himself would have done.

The book is nostalgic without being overtly sentimental. It is fun to read but none the less founded on sound scholarship. This reviewer particularly enjoyed Chapter VIII: "Land of the Heroes." Being a resident himself in this fabled paradise he would be the last to label himself a "hero" but it is interesting to conjecture the lasting influence which many of these youthful personages must have left after they moved away. Dr. Dizer has attempted to pinpoint the actual locales of towns where the likes of Tom Swift, Richard Rover, Frank Merriwell, Dick Hamilton, and Don Sturdy began their careers. Thankfully authors such as Victor Appleton and Arthur M. Winfield were not always completely successful in camouflaging their trails so that these hoybood heroes assume real-life significance. How comforting to know that Shopton, Oak Run, and Cedarville are not really that far away. Might not those ruins down the road apiece be all that remains of Randolph Rover's agricultural farm? I wonder.

Dr. Dizer's Vermont humor asserts itself every once in a while ("The connection between this Merriwell [Alwyn] and Harton Merriwell, father of the noted Frank, has not been established, but it seems probable that any mother who would name a boy 'Alwyn' would be equally likely to name another, 'Harton'.") which gives the book added flavor. And no, we do not accuse you of "arrested development." It is as Prof. Cox states: "The tools of the scholar and the judgment of the critic are at all times weighed against the heart of the enthusiast. This mixture makes the work informative as well as entertaining." At one point the author is humorous and folksy, yet these likable qualities always take a back seat to scholarship. Jules Verne move over. Dr. Dizer has researched deeply into the field and has documented evidence that Edward S. Ellis and Luis Senarens established the roots of science fiction in this country. I quote from p. 89: "The plain facts are, and they have been plentifully documented by numerous writers including Sam Moskowitz, Denis Rogers, Quentin Reynolds and Charles Bragin, that Verne did not originate science fiction or the scientific adventure. In addition he was certainly not as popular among the American boys of the period as Ellis or 'Noname.' The mainstream of the popular boys' scientific adventure in this country has been much more influenced by Ellis, Senarens and later, Stratemeyer, than by Verne." How valuable these new insights are can only be reflected in the plethora of science fiction (both good and bad) on the market today. And Stratemeyer was certainly a pioneer in the dissemination of this type of literature in America.

The road to maturity is paved with changed attitudes and altered thinking patterns. What served us in 1952 or even in 1852 does not necessarily "sell" in 1982. Yet man has left a record, and all of it in one way or another is worthy of evaluation: Ellis as well as Irving, Stratemeyer as well as Steinbeck. Dr. Dizer has done well by the many Stratemeyer enthusiasts and we can only hope that it is a general portent of things to come. The Stratemeyer Bib-

liography in Part Five alone is worth the price of the book. All of his known writings are catalogued, listed, and cross-referenced and many of the Stratemeyer myths are at once laid to rest. A good point is brought out on p. 2: "To research series books and their influence properly, one must read many of the books, not just a small sample. The first problem is finding them. My collection of something over 6000 represents many years of book searching. The second problem is reading them. Many collectors have magnificent libraries of children's books, none of which they ever read." How true! how true! The books themselves are the final arbiters: they the finished product of the author's particular gifts. These documents are not only to be studied but must be read completely to be understood thoroughly. To Dr. Dizer's credit he has taken the time to peruse all of his Stratemeyer canon and so has come up with a refined opus of unchallengeable probity. He has set the example for many to follow. The books about Horatio Alger, G. A. Henty, and Harry Castlemon are now in even happier company but much more needs to be done. This reviewer is working on what he hopes will be the definitive work on William T. Adams, but it is a protracted course he has set for himself; yet Tom Swift & Company helps serve as the stimulus. There are a myriad of other authors which need contemporary re-appraisal. And so to all of the would-be scholarly do-gooders, the reading of D. Dizer's book prompts me to ask: Who is Sylvanus Cobb?

STILL HAVE

Nearly 500 old dime novels. How about a set of Westbrook's Beadles Frontier series, about 80 of the first 100, majority mint, wrapped by the publisher and taken in trade from Cummings in the 30's. \$100 for the lot?

Lots of Pluck and Luck and singles of various scarce series.

Sold at lot of the boys books but some of Ellis, Alger and others, top price \$1.25! Some later ones with dust jackets.

I know some of you would be interested in other old books and bound magazines, almost all pre-1900 and some pre-1800. I have a few good volumes of a travel publication printed 1750s, covering a lot of exotic countries at a good price IF you can read FRENCH. If you are a dealer and have a customer that qualifies, this is for you. If serious, I'll try to translate the list of countries—Mongolia, Fiji, Tibet of the 18th century! 5 vols. \$75.00!

Send 40c for lists of your interests.

H. W. Miller (ye Roundup Printer), 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044

FOR SALE

Boys' Series Books by Leo Edward and many other authors.

Priced Reasonably — Send SASE for Listing.

John Fish, 63 E. Front St., Hancock, N. Y. 13783

DIME NOVELS FOR SALE

Still have a few colored covered items for sale, but most of the very good and excellent condition copies have been sold out.

I still have many of the black and white. Sale lists of the libraries available for an SASE.

Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720

BOOKS WRITTEN BY HEZEKIAH BUTTERWORTH

1839-1905

Compiled by Jack Schorr

from National Union Catalogues and Catalogue of Printed Cards

- (1) "The Story of The Hymns," or Hymns That Have a History
American Tract Society 1875
- (2) Young Folk's History of Boston
Estes and Lauriat 1881
- (3) "Zig Zag Journeys in Europe," or Vacation Rambles in Historic Lands
Estes and Lauriat 1880
- (4) "Zig Zag Journeys in Classic Lands," or Tommy Toby's Trip to Mt.
Parnassus
Estes and Lauriat 1881
- (5) "Young Folk's History of America." Edited by Hezekiah Butterworth
Estes and Lauriat 1881
- (6) How Dot Heard "The Messiah" and other stories by other authors
D. Lothrop and Co. 1882
- (7) "Zig Zag Journeys in The Orient" or The Adriatic to The Baltic
Estes and Lauriat 1882
- (8) "Zig Zag Journeys in 'The Occident'" or The Atlantic to The Pacific
Estes and Lauriat 1883
- (9) "Up From The Cape" A Plea For Republican Simplicity
Estes and Lauriat 1883
- (10) "Zig Zag Journeys in Northern Lands" or The Rhine to The Arctic
Estes and Lauriat 1884
- (11) "Poems For Christmas, Easter, and New Year's"
Estes and Lauriat 1885
- (12) "Zig Zag Journeys in Acadia and New France"
Estes and Lauriat 1885
- (13) The Great Composers
D. Lothrop and Co. 1884
- (14) "Zig Zag Journeys in The Levant" or with a Talmudist Story-Teller
Estes and Lauriat 1886
- (15) "Ballads and Stories For Reading with Musical Accompaniments for
Public Entertainments"
John Church Co., Root and Sons Music Co. 1886
- (16) "Zig Zag Journeys in India" or The Antipodes of the Far East
Estes and Lauriat 1887
- (17) "Songs of History"
New England Publishing Co. 1887
- (18) "A Zig Zag Journey in the Sunny South" or Wonder Tales of Early
American History
Estes and Lauriat 1887
- (19) "Zig Zag Journeys in the Antipodes"
Estes and Lauriat 1888
See "Cruising in The Indian Seas"—#33
- (20) "Zig Zag Journeys in The British Isles" or Vacation Rambles in His-
toric Lands
Estes and Lauriat 1889
- (21) "Zig Zag Journeys in The Great Northwest" or A Trip to American
Switzerland
Estes and Lauriat 1890

- (22) "The Story of The Tunes"
American Tract Society 1890
- (23) "The Log School House on The Columbia," a Tale of The Pioneers of
The Great Northwest
D. Appleton and Company 1890
- (24) "The Christmas Book"
D. Lothrop Company 1891
- (25) "In The Boyhood of Lincoln," a Tale of the Tunker Schoolmaster and
the Times of Black Hawk
D. Appleton and Co. 1892
- (26) "Little Arthur's History of Rome" or From The Golden Age to Con-
stantine
T. Y. Crowell and Co. 1892
- (27) "Zig Zag Journeys on The Mississippi" or From Chicago to the Islands
of Discovery
Estes and Lauriat 1892
- (28) "Zig Zag Journeys on The Mediterranean"
Estes and Lauriat 1893
- (29) "The Boys and Greenway Court," a tale of the Early Days of Washington
D. Appleton and Company 1895
- (30) "Zig Zag Journeys in the White City"
Estes and Lauriat 1894
- (31) "Popular History of Boston"
Estes and Lauriat 1894
- (32) "Popular History of America" Edited by Hezekiah Butterworth
Estes and Lauriat 1894
- (33) "Cruising in The Indian Seas"—formerly published under "Zig Zag
Journeys in the Antipodes"
G. Sully 1894
- (34) "The Patriot Schoolmaster" a Tale of The Minutemen and The Sons of
Liberty
D. Appleton and Co. 1894
- (35) "The Parson's Miracle"
"My Grandmother's Grandmother's Christmas Candle"
"Christmas in America"
Estes and Lauriat 1894
- (36) "The Knight of Liberty" a tale of the Fortune of La Fayette
D. Appleton and Co. 1895
- (37) "In Old New England," the romance of the Colonial Fireside
D. Appleton and Co. 1895
- (38) "Zig Zag Journeys Around the World"
Estes and Lauriat 1895
- (39) "Young Folk's History of America." Revised and enlarged
The Werner Company 1895
- (40) "Zig Zag Stories of History" Travel and adventure
Estes and Lauriat 1896
- (41) "The Wampum Belt" or the Fairest Page of History
D. Appleton and Co. 1896
- (42) "Over The Andes" or Our Boys in New South America
W. A. Wilde and Company 1897
- (43) "True to His Home" the Story of the Boyhood of Franklin
D. Appleton and Co. 1897

- (44) "In the Days of Massasoit" a Tale of Roger Williams
American Baptist Publication Society 1897
- (45) "South America" a popular illustrated history of struggle for freedom
in the Andean Republics and Cuba
Doubleday and McClury Co. 1898
Reprinted in 1904 by Doubleday Page and Co. to include Republic
of Cuba
- (46) "The Story of America" revised and enlarged
The Werner Company 1898. Earlier editions were titled
"Young Folk's History of America" and "Popular History of
America"
- (47) "The Pilot of The Mayflower" a Tale of the Children of the Pilgrim
Republic
D. Appleton and Company 1898
- (48) "In The Land of The Condor" a story of Tarapaca
Baptist Publication Society 1898
- (49) "Lost in Nicaragua" or Among the Coffee Farms and Banana Lands
in the countries of the Great Canal
W. A. Wilde and Company 1898
- (50) "The Story of Magellan and The Discovery of The Philippines"
D. Appleton and Company 1899
- (51) "The Treasure Ship"
D. Appleton and Company 1899
- (52) "The Bordentown Story Tellers" or Little Lady Lucy and The Merry
Berry Pickers
A. I. Bradley and Co. 1899
- (53) "Jack's Carrier Pigeons" a tale of the times of Father Taylor's
mariners' home
A. I. Bradley and Co. 1900
- (54) "In the Days of Jefferson" or The six golden horseshoes
D. Appleton and Company 1901
- (55) "Traveler Tales of South Africa" or stories which picture recent history
D. Estes and Company 1901
- (56) "Little Sky High" or The Surprising Doings of Little Washee-Washee-
Wang
T. Y. Crowell and Co. 1901
- (57) "Traveller Tales of China" or the Story-Telling Hour
D. Estes and Co. 1901
- (58) "Traveller Tales of the Pan American Countries
D. Estes and Co. 1902
- (59) "In The Days of Audubon" a tale of the "protector of birds"
D. Appleton and Company 1901
- (60) "Brother Jonathan"
D. Appleton and Co. 1903
- (61) "A New England Miracle" or Seekers after Truth
American Baptist Publication Society 1903
- (62) "Little Metacomet" or The Indian Playmate
T. Y. Crowell and Co. 1904
- (63) "The Young McKinley" or School-days in Ohio
D. Appleton and Co. 1905
- (64) "The Story of the Hymns and Tunes"
New and revised edition of former two books, "The Story of The

Hymns" and "The Story of The Tunes"

American Tract Society 1907

and George H. Doran Company 1923

- (65) "Heroine of The Wilderness" the Story of Lincoln's Mother
J. C. Winston Co. 1906

Note: "The Story of The Hymns and Tunes" and "In Old New England" I have been informed, are still in print.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 202 Robert E. Walters, 961 McLain Road, Columbus, Ohio 43212 (Correction)
316 Irene Carr, 456 Madison Ave., Albany, N. Y. 12208 (New address)

NEW MEMBERS

- 344 Stephen M. Ferguson, Cairnson Farm, Kintersville, Pa. 18930
345 Margaret P. Esmonde, 318 Hamilton Road, Merion, Pa. 19066
L-56 Library, Serials Dept., Iowa State Univ., Ames, Iowa 50011
346 H. K. Saur, P. O. Box 548, Diablo, Calif. 94528

NEWS NOTES

Greer Maeder of 2918 Jackson St., Apt. 9, Hollywood, Fla. 33020, wants Dorothy Dixon Wins Her Wings. Can anyone come to her aid?

It is sad to have to report the death of three long time members of the Happy Hours Brotherhood: Harry K. Hudson on Feb. 14, 1982. Harry was the backbone of the boys series book collectors. His bibliography is a masterpiece to be imitated by others in the future. Ross Craufurd, exact date not known. Information sent in by Ralph P. Smith. Ross was a renown researcher in the dime novel field and the results of many of his works have appeared in the Roundup. The next issue of the Roundup will feature his last article. And Edward J. McNabb, a renown collector of dime novels. They will be sorely missed.

This morning's paper reports the death of Harriet Adams, present head of the Stratemeyer Syndicate. She was 89 and wrote many of the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys stories.

Frederick Fell, New York publisher, has retired to sunny Florida. He sends in an ad from the Wall Street Journal which is headed "A Horatio Alger story underwritten by Kentucky & Co." The ad recounts the acquiring of a steel plant in Newport, Kentucky by the workers when the plant was closed.

Yellowback Library No. 7 features articles on Nancy Drew; Popular Girls and Tots' Series by Deidre Johnson; Unusual Juvenile Editions, by Rick Crandall and Hard to Find Series Books, by Jack Schorr.

Yellowback Library No. 8 continues the Nancy Drew articles by Dave Farah; The Tim Murphy Series, by Ken Donelson and Colorful World Syndicate Editions, by Rick Crandall. Both issues also feature Juvenalia by Bob Chenu.

The Mystery and Adventure Series Review #8 features articles on the Submarine Boys, the Roy Stove Series, Hall Keen, Hunting for Hidden Books and many other worthwhile articles in the boys book collecting scene. Both are worthwhile additions to all collectors.

LETTERS

Dear Ed:

Capital article on the other side of the Alger story . . . he (Dr. Max Goldberg) raised a question I'd wondered about. Why only the ONE incident and no other word? Maybe that'll settle the dust and we can concentrate on the stories. Enjoyed Bob Sampson's piece on Felix Boyd very much. I'll be teaching a Sherlock Holmes course this January, but one of these years I hope to do a seminar on the dime novel.

Randy Cox

Mr. LeBlanc:

According to Mr. Beck of the Library of Congress, you are very well informed about Nickel and Dime novels. Will you tell me if there is published a book or periodical annotating the characters in such books?

When my sister was born in 12/1904 my parents were reading a book with its heroine named Urith Dell. They named my sister Urith. If a copy of the book can be found and photographed, I should like to give my sister a copy.

Can you help me?

Lily McGehee

125 Madison St., Erwin, Tenn. 37650

Dear Eddie:

We returned today from our Florida trip to visit libraries and talk with book people.

One of the purposes of my trip to Florida was to stop at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky to see the Burroughs collection that has been accumulated by George McWhorter. This was well worth the trip and I would encourage all fans of Edgar Rice Burroughs to see this accumulation of books and other memorabilia related to the creator of Tarzan. They will find Curator George McWhorter interesting and very well informed about the books of the "Master of Adventure."

Other visits were scheduled with D. Peter Ogden, editor of Erbania, Harry Hudson—publisher of the Bibliography of Boys Books, and Howard Funk as well as a number of used book dealers and collectors along the route.

You can imagine my surprise when I called Harry's home from Tampa and learned that he had died on Feb. 14, 1982.

The visits with "Pete" Ogden and Howard Funk were very pleasant and I will make a practice of visiting them every time I am in the Tampa area to see my family, as I had done with Harry Hudson.

It is associations like this that make this book "thing" interesting and worthwhile. As I have mentioned to you in previous communication, I encourage people to visit with me any time they are in St. Louis, Mo., 427 Greaser Road so easy to find and we are always ready to stop for coffee and rolls.

Many times I have said that nothing in this world is of too much value if you cannot share it with others. I enjoy showing others what I have done with books and what I have in work.

And I forgot to mention that another of the important people that I visited in Florida was Eugene Lee who now makes Florida his permanent home. Collectors of the Leo Edwards books will be pleased to know that Gene is well and Betty is busy with "painting" and is keeping up with golf. I have never been too keen about Florida living, but I must say that Gene and Betty Lee have something that I could live with.

Later this year we will make a trip to Colorado and the west and then in the fall will make another trip to Michigan to visit book barns.

In the meantime, tell all the members of the Happy Hour Brotherhood that the "latchstring" is out at 427 Graesser Rd. in St. Louis, Mo. 63141

Sincerely, Willis Potthoff

Dear Eddie,

ROUNDUP readers should be made aware (if not so already) of a series of books by Lin Carter published by Daw Books, N. Y. It is an "Inner World" series purporting to relate the adventures of Eric Carstairs in ZANTHODON. I believe there are five out but have only read the first one, "Journey to the Underground World." They are marvelous, full of incident and multitudinous surprises in correct Dime Novel fashion. It is hard to think of Luis Senarens himself being outdone. Comparisons to the "Pellucidar" novels are made by the publishers but not being a Burroughs fan I cannot authenticate or comment upon it. However it does bring to mind pleasant memories of reading "The Lost World," and I for one will put my money every time on Conan Doyle.

Replete with dinosaurs (and I mean dinosaurs, not overgrown lizards or snakes) and not one but **three** lost races of humans as well as illustrations the plot moves swiftly along to an interesting conclusion. There are any number of ancient creatures mentioned in the first volume alone and a plausible theory as to how it all occurred. Carter does not throw in any romance either which pleased this reader immensely. Reference is also made in the text to **King Kong** and **The Lost World**; besides which a young cave girl is whisked away to her giant lair by a mother Pterodactyl (are you out there Fay Wray?). And no, she is NOT rescued by the hero. Yet if any of you still refuse to accept this as being truthful, might I add that the author pauses the action somewhat so that Carstairs is able to relieve himself? How did Tarzan overcome that problem?

Best wishes, Peter C. Walther

Dear Ed,

A few days ago I picked up a copy of the February, 1982 issue of Trains magazine off the news stand. Much to my surprise and delight, at the bottom of the cover there is a life-size, 15 foot tall, steam man standing beside a couple of early locomotives. And on page 43 there is another color photo of the steam man with a smaller black and white illustration from the original Frank Reade stories. Only in the last paragraph of page 43 is anything said about the Frank Reade Library. And this isn't really too informative. Apparently the Walt Disney studios has made a TV pilot about the Steam Man. No other details are given. If you haven't seen this issue of Trains already, you might be interested. And, you might want to write the Disney studios for further and complete details so that you could keep the readers of "Dime Novel Roundup" informed of what may appear on TV. This is just an idea. We both know that the Disney outfit could make a hash of the Steam Man!

Now that Jack Dizer's "Tom Swift & Company" is published, I hope that you are going to give it a good review and urge readers to buy it. The book is filled with information and Jack's humor sounds exactly like Jack. We need more studies like this about both dime novels and boys' series books. Any chance you could write a similar book concerning some of the dime novels and get McFarland to publish it? I hope that Jack continues to write enough articles on boys' books to fill up a second volume.

Regards, Edward S. Lauterbach

Dear Ed:

I enjoyed the article by Robert Sampson especially since it dealt with the early years of "Popular Magazine," one of the best of the general adventure pulps. Perhaps you can persuade Bob to write additional articles on the early pulps of the 1910-1930 period.

Sincerely, Walker Martin

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES CONCERNING DIME NOVELS BOYS BOOKS, ETC.

A HORATIO ALGER ANNIVERSARY, By Ralph Gardner, Collector Editions, Winter 1981. A short review of Alger prices on the occasion of his 150th anniversary of his birth.

TIME TO BEGIN CELEBRATIONS FOR HORATIO ALGER, by Thomas V. DiBacco. Article in Dec. 31, 1981 issue of Wall Street Journal. Review Alger heroes and Mr. DiBacco a historian of business at American University, Washington, D. C., states that he has required his students to read at least two of Alger's books while in his class.

TIP TOP'S FRANK MERRIWELL--AN 85 YEAR OLD LEGEND, by Roy Nuhn. Hobbies, The Magazine for Collectors. May 1981 issue. A cursory review of dime novels by an ill-informed writer. There are some flashes of facts, but intermixed with much misinformation. There are two good illustrations which make the article collectible.

HORATIO ALGER: STILL MAKING IT. Anonymous article about Alger in the New York Daily News for January 12, 1982 on the occasion of his 150th birthday.

ALGER'S 150TH YEAR MARKED. New York Times, January 14, 1982. Article by Herbert Mitgang. Reports on the ceremony held at the Children's Aid Society Headquarters in New York.

A DIME NOVEL COLLECTOR'S BOOK SHELF

PAPERBACK PRIMER. A Guide for Collectors, by Thomas L. Bonn. Published by Paperback Quarterly Publications, 1710 Vincent St., Brownwood, Texas 76801. Price \$9.95 cloth and \$6.95 paperbound. This is a short history and bibliography of paperbound books published from 1939 on. As all books purporting to be histories of paperbound books, the mass publications of the 19th century are completely overlooked. However for those collectors of the present paperbound era, this is an invaluable book and is recommended.

TOM SWIFT & COMPANY, BOYS BOOKS BY STRATEMEYER AND OTHERS, by John T. Dizer, Jr., McFarland & Co., Inc., Box 611, Jefferson N. C. 28640. Price \$17.95 plus \$1.25 for shipping expenses. This book reprints many of the articles by Dr. Dizer which first appeared in the Roundup. There is an excellent introduction by J. Randolph Cox, another contributor to the Roundup. The book will be fully reviewed in the next issue of the Roundup.

VOM PENNY DREADFUL ZUM COMIC. A German language soft cover publication with excellent colored illustrations of many of the early British "dime novels" from Boys of the Empire to Sexton Blake. There is also a section devoted to the early British comics. I do wish I could read and understand German. The text and entries in this volume sound intriguing. May Mr. Kevin Carpenter who compiled the information could be induced to have it translated into English for the British and American trade.

FOR SALE

MYSTERY—DETECTIVE—SUSPENSE novels, hard cover; most important authors, including first editions. American and British: John Rhode, John Creasey, Edgar Wallace, et al. Also Georges Simenon (translations from French).

SPORTS books: hard cover and paperback.

JUVENILES, assorted titles, mostly hard cover.

TIP TOP WEEKLIES (Frank and Dick Merriwell).

19th CENTURY FICTION, a few assorted titles.

WESTERNS—Large collection of Max Brand, hard cover and paperback.

Other Westerns.

PAPERBACKS—Many mystery-detective authors, including Sax Rohmer, Dennis Wheatley, G. Simenon, Edgar Wallace, Brett Halliday, Richard Prather (Shell Scott), Alfred Hitchcock collections, Ross MacDonald, JOHN CREASEY, Ellery Queen, IAN FLEMING (James Bond), EARL STANLEY GARDNER (and A. A. Fair), Perry Mason, Donald Lam stories.

Also some Science Fiction and general fiction.

DIME NOVELS, OLD BOOKLETS, OLD PAPERBACKS: Nick Carter and others.

MAGAZINES (1940's to 1970's): Saturday Review, Time, Life, Look, special issues and important newspaper supplements. (Lists available).

Total of about 27 lists. **PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR INTERESTS.**

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